

# FOUND A CAT?

## What should you do?

Does the cat appear sick, injured, or in immediate danger?

**YES**

Call your local animal control officer (ACO) or police department and ask if they can help. If you can't reach an ACO try a licensed shelter/rescue.



To find local contacts scan these links for the Massachusetts ACO list, and the MA licensed Shelter/Rescue list



If you can't reach anyone, can you safely transport the cat?

Try bringing the cat to a local shelter / vet? Keep in mind a sick/injured cat can act unpredictably. Read this first



Still need assistance? Keep trying to reach your local ACO and police department. You can also call a 24 hour Veterinary Hospital for advice.

**NO**

Is the cat old enough to eat on it's own?

**YES**

A feral cat is a cat who has not been socialized around people, unlike a stray or indoor /outdoor cat.

**NO**

A normal 4-5 week old kitten will start to eat on their own, will weigh .5-1.0 pound, and are able to walk well without wobbling.

If the kitten is in a safe place, watch the kitten for a few hours. If the mom doesn't return, the kitten can be brought into a local shelter /rescue ( call first). Make sure you give them the exact locaton where the kitten was found.

Kittens have a much better chance of survival if the mom is with them, so ask about TNR options in your area to help the whole family.

Is the cat friendly? Is he/she easy to approach and wanting attention?

**YES**

This cat could be lost (stray) or it could be a local indoor/ outdoor cat. Does the cat have a collar and ID?

**NO**

Facebook and social media sites can be a great resource to help reunite pets with owners. Check for local missing or found cat postings

Call your animal control officer AND local shelter to see if any lost reports have been filed. Check with neighbors, ask local businesses to post flyers and post pictures on social media to help the owners locate their cat. Bring the cat to a shelter /vet office to have them scan for a microchip. If no microchip is found, fill out a found report to file with your ACO and local shelter /rescue. See if a breakaway or paper collar can be placed on the cat with contact info for an owner to call if the cat can be released back in the area.

**NO**

Indoor /Outdoor cats typically stay within 1/2 mile of their home. They usually appear comfortable outside and appear well-fed and well-kept

Is the cat ear tipped? Eartipping is an universal sign of a spayed/neutered feral cat. Eartipping is performed by removing approximately 3/8th of an inch on typically the left ear.

**YES**

Feral cats and scared/lost cats act very similarly and may be hard to tell apart. A lost cat can appear very unkempt since they are not used to being outside.

For feral cats, ear tips are hip!

**NO**

Call the phone number and let them know the exact location of the cat.

**YES**

Was the cat claimed?

**YES**

Collars and IDs save lives!

**NO**

Great job!



Are you now inspired to help even more homeless animals? Visit [www.mass.gov/animalfund](http://www.mass.gov/animalfund) and find out how you can help us help them! Prevent animal homelessness SPAY/NEUTER!

You can help him/her find a good home. Local shelters/rescues may be able to help place the cat. If you want to foster the cat and find a home yourself ask them for advice and tips. However, if you are smitten with this cat and want to keep him/her as your own, take the cat to a vet for a wellness check, spay /neuter microchip, and vaccinations!

For low cost options start looking here:



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